WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for performing a measurement in a network from a measurement host comprising:

receiving an Internet Protocol Measurement Protocol (IPMP) packet constructed by the measurement host, said IPMP packet including instructions for a recipient of the IPMP packet, said instructions including whether to include a time stamp or not when forwarding the IPMP packet;

examining a contents of the IPMP packet for instructions before forwarding the IPMP packet by the network device; and

processing the IPMP packet in accordance with the instructions.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include a path record when forwarding the IPMP packet.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said instructions include authentication data.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include additional information in the IPMP packet when forwarding the IPMP packet.

5. A method for performing a measurement in a network from a measurement host comprising:

receiving an Internet Protocol Measurement (IPMP) Protocol packet constructed by the measurement host, said IPMP packet including instructions for a recipient of the IPMP packet, said instructions including whether to include a path record or not when forwarding the IPMP packet;

examining a contents of the IPMP packet for instructions before forwarding the IPMP packet by the network device; and

processing the IPMP packet in accordance with the instructions.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include a time stamp when forwarding the IPMP packet.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein said instructions include authentication data.

8. The method according to claim 5, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include additional information in the IPMP packet when forwarding the IPMP packet.

9. An apparatus for performing a measurement in a network comprising:

a processor to couple to the network; and

a memory to store computer readable instructions causing a processor to:

receive an Internet Protocol Measurement Protocol (IPMP) packet constructed by the measurement host, said IPMP packet including instructions for a recipient of the IPMP packet, said instructions including whether to include a time stamp or not when forwarding the IPMP packet;

examine a contents of the IPMP packet for instructions before forwarding the IPMP packet by the network device; and

process the IPMP packet in accordance with the instructions.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include a path record when forwarding the IPMP packet.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said instructions include authentication data.

12. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include additional information in the IPMP packet when forwarding the IPMP packet.

13. An apparatus for performing a measurement in a network comprising:

a processor to couple to the network; and

a memory to store computer readable instructions causing a processor to:

receive an Internet Protocol Measurement (IPMP) Protocol packet constructed by the measurement host, said IPMP packet including instructions for

a recipient of the IPMP packet, said instructions including whether to include a path record or not when forwarding the IPMP packet;

examine a contents of the IPMP packet for instructions before forwarding the IPMP packet by the network device; and

process the IPMP packet in accordance with the instructions.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include a time stamp when forwarding the IPMP packet.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said instructions include authentication data.

16. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include additional information in the IPMP packet when forwarding the IPMP packet.

17. A computer readable media having encoded thereon computer readable instructions causing a processor to:

receive an Internet Protocol Measurement Protocol (IPMP) packet constructed by the measurement host, said IPMP packet including instructions for a recipient of the IPMP packet, said instructions including whether to include a time stamp or not when forwarding the IPMP packet;

examine a contents of the IPMP packet for instructions before forwarding the IPMP packet by the network device; and

process the IPMP packet in accordance with the instructions.

18. The computer readable media according to claim 17, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include a path record when forwarding the IPMP packet.

19. A computer readable media having encoded thereon computer readable instructions causing a processor to:

receive an Internet Protocol Measurement (IPMP) Protocol packet constructed by the measurement host, said IPMP packet including instructions for a recipient of the IPMP packet, said instructions including whether to include a path record or not when forwarding the IPMP packet;

examine a contents of the IPMP packet for instructions before forwarding the IPMP packet by the network device; and

process the IPMP packet in accordance with the instructions.

20. The computer readable media according to claim 19, wherein said instructions include whether or not to include a time stamp when forwarding the IPMP packet.